

CLAIMS

Sub A1 1. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective  
5 amount of an agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity and/or improves cardiovascular reflex status.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity is any one or more of the following:  
10 a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin inhibitor; a  $\beta$  receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby  
15 reduce SNS activity such as an opiate; scopolamine; endothelin receptor antagonist; a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; and erythropoietin.

Sub A2 3. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective  
20 amount of a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone, such as an aldosterone antagonist.

4. A method according to Claim 3 wherein the compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone is any one of spironolactone, testolactone,  
25 RU40555, RU26752, canrenoate, eplerenone, 3-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxoandrosta-1,4,6,11-tetraen-17 $\alpha$ -yl) propionic acid  $\gamma$  lactone, 3-(9- $\alpha$ -fluoro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-androsta-4-en-17 $\alpha$ -yl) propionic acid  $\gamma$  lactone,

dihydro-spirorenone, spirorenone, 15,16-methylene derivatives of spironolactone, mespirenone and SC9420.

Sub A 3  
5 5. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a chymase inhibitor.

6. A method according to Claim 5 wherein the chymase inhibitor is any one of alendronate, aprotinin and tissue inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases.

Sub A 4  
15 7. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a cathepsin inhibitor.

8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the cathepsin B inhibitor is any one of an epoxysuccinyl peptide such as CA-074 or E64-c, stefin A and cystatin C.

Sub A 5  
9. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a  $\beta$  receptor blocker.

10. A method according to Claim 9 wherein the  $\beta$  receptor blocker is any one of acebutolol, alprenolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, carteolol, celiprolol, esmolol, labetolol, lavobunolol, metipranolol, metoprolol, nadolol, oxprenolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol, timolol, nebivolol, carvedilol and bucindolol.

Sub A10  
11. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an imidazoline receptor antagonist.

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12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the imidazoline receptor antagonist is any one of moxonidine, rilmenidine, pentamidine and  $\alpha$ -methyl dopa.

Sub A11  
10 13. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor agonist.

14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor agonist is clonidine.

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Sub A12  
15. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist.

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16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist is any one of doxazosin, prazosin, terazosin and ipsapirone.

Sub A13  
25 17. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a ganglion blocking agent.

18. A method according to Claim 17 wherein the ganglion blocking agent is any one of azamethonium, dicolinium, hexamethonium, mecamlamine, pentamethonium, pentolinium, trimetaphan, benzo hexonium, hexafluorenum, cypenam, trimethaphan canfosulfonate, 5 tetraethylammonium bromide and synapleg.

19. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduces SNS activity.

20. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an opiate.

21. A method according to Claim 20 wherein the opiate is any one of dihydrocodeine, morphine, diamorphine and buprenorphine.

22. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of scopolamine.

23. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective  
25 amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist.

24. A method according to Claim 23 wherein the ET-1 receptor antagonist is any one of butenolide, BQ123, BQ-788, A-216546, ABT-

Sub A12

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Sub A13

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Sub A14

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30. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 29 wherein the patient has idiopathic cachexia.

Sub A14  
31. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 29 wherein the underlying disease is chronic heart failure and the patient has cardiac cachexia.

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32. Use of a compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 36 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating weight loss due to underlying disease.

10 33. Use according to Claim 32 wherein the underlying disease is as defined in Claim 28.

34. Use of a compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 36 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating idiopathic cachexia.

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Sub A15  
35. A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the ageing process in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity.

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36. A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the ageing process in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of any one or more of a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin inhibitor; a  $\beta$  receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduce SNS activity such as

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an opiate, a digitalis alkaloid, scopolamine; an endothelin receptor antagonist; a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; and erythropoietin.

Sub A16  
37. A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the ageing  
5 process in a patient the method comprising electrically stimulating the patient's muscles.

38. A method of enhancing exercise performance in a healthy patient  
the method comprising administering to the individual an effective amount  
10 of an agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity.

Sub A17  
39. A method of enhancing exercise performance in a healthy  
individual the method comprising administering the individual an effective  
amount of any one or more of a compound which inhibits the effect of  
15 aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin inhibitor; a  $\beta$  receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduce SNS activity such as an opiate;  
20 a digitalis alkaloid; scopolamine; an anabolic growth factor like growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I); an endothelin receptor antagonist; a TNF $\alpha$  antagonist; a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; and erythropoietin.

25 40. A method of enhancing exercise performance in a healthy patient the method comprising electrically stimulating the patient's muscles.

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- Sub A17
41. A method of preventing weight loss consequent to a cardiovascular disorder in a patient at risk of heart disease the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of any one or more of a compound with an inhibiting effect on aldosterone; a  $\beta$ -receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting  $\alpha$  receptor agonist; a peripherally acting  $\alpha$  receptor antagonist; and a ganglion blocking agent.
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42. Use of a compound as defined in Claim 35 or 36 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing weight loss due to ageing in a patient.
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43. Use of a compound as defined in Claim 38 or 39 in the manufacture of an agent for enhancing exercise performance in a healthy individual.
- Add A19

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